

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1973



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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee

Chairman:- H. A. Orbell, Esq.

Councillors: G. Brewin  
D. A. Dagless  
T. H. Ellingham  
Mrs. D. Fleming  
M. K. Ogden  
Rev'd. Wm. C. Spooner

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. Burns, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,  
County Hall, March. Telephone: March 2471

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1973

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1973, which it should be noted is, in fact, the final Annual Report for the Urban District and includes a similar report from the Public Health Inspector.

Once again it is pleasing to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee for their interest and support and to all my colleagues on the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,786
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,480
Number of inhabited houses			..	..	..	..	5,598
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	..			..	..	..	1,187
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1973)	..			..	..	..	£1,291,389
Amount represented by estimated 1p. rate 1972/73	..			..	..	..	£12,550

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres, and the estimated population increased by 120 to 14,480. The main forms of employment remain much the same as in former years.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups:-

Under 1 year	1.52
1 - 4 years	-
5 - 14 years	-
15 - 64 years	17.25
65 and over	81.23
	<hr/> 100.00 <hr/>

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	124
Scarlet Fever	6
	<hr/> 130 <hr/>

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during 1973

National Assistance Act

No action was necessary under this Act during 1973



Vital Statistics are related to returns at present available

Live Births

Number	(Male 95)							
	(	)						
	(Female 66)		Total	..	..	..	..	161
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.3

Stillbirths

Number	(Male 1)							
	(	)						
	(Female -)		Total	..	..	..	..	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.1

Total Live and Stillbirths

Number	(Male 96)							
	(	)						
	(Female 66)		Total	..	..	..	..	162

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

Number	(Male 3)							
	(	)						
	(Female -)		Total	..	..	..	..	3

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.4
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.5
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.6

Factories Act, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1973 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
AND ISLE OF ELY

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	15	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2			2	
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective				1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

Part VIII of the Act:- OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

The figure of 49 outworkers notified during 1972 is still applicable, i.e. 48 engaged in making sacks and 1 making boxes wholly or partially of paper.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1973

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1973:-

Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Animals or birds	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Bakchouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cold Store	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Fish Shops & Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Food Hygiene	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Food Prep. Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Food Vans	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Gen. Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Housing P.H. Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	202
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	465
Knackers Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Market Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Noise	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Petrol	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	446
Swimming Pool	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tents, Vans & Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Vermin - R. & M.	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
							<hr/>
							1,619

<u>Table of Notices served during 1973</u>		<u>Served during</u> <u>1973</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>by 31/12/73</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts	Verbal	27	20
	Letter	16	10
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	Verbal	112	112
Food Hygiene Regulations	Verbal	2	2
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	Verbal	2	2
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	Verbal	2	2
Factories Act	Verbal	3	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		164	149

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

Under the above Act, 130 premises are registered and 34 inspections were made during the year.

## HOUSING

Eighteen demolition orders and two closing orders were made during 1973 and ten dwellings were actually demolished. Nine families were rehoused during the year from this type of property.

## DRAINAGE

The proposed scheme of sewer extensions and remedial works has been delayed because of restrictions on capital expenditure. Negotiations are continuing with the Department of the Environment.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (a) whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity;

Yes

- (b) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; and the results of any chemical analyses; information on the fluoride content of the various supplies should be included wherever possible;

The following is the report of the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1973 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

The fluoride content of a sample of water from the Water Board Offices, Oldfield Lane, Wisbech, (mixture of the water from Marham and Beechamwell) taken on the 21st November, 1973, was Nil.

Bacteriological Samples Taken in the March Urban District			
<u>Total Tests Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests Positive</u>	<u>% Negative Tests</u>
56	56	0	100%

- (c) where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including the precautions taken and the number and result of analyses;

The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

- (d) the action taken in respect of any form of contamination;

There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.

- (e) the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (i) direct to the houses, and (ii) by means of stand-pipes.

(i) direct to houses	-	100%
(ii) by means of stand-pipes	-	Nil



## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one licensed site in the area for nine caravans and a further three licences are operative in respect of four caravans.

## SWIMMING POOL

The open air heated swimming pool (110' x 42') was opened in May, 1965 and in addition to the daily checks carried out by the staff, 9 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were satisfactory. The water is chlorinated there being a six hour turnover.

There are three schools with swimming pools and satisfactory samples at monthly intervals were taken from each school during the summer.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 (as amended)

No applications were submitted for approval during 1973.

## RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated monthly and the sewers are dealt with annually. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible.

Following the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, a private Contractor is now employed to deal with infestation generally. A free service is given when infestation occurs in private dwellings and shops.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

Under the above Acts, 48 licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, 1 for the storage of Calcium Carbide and 1 for the storage of Petroleum Mixtures.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Two slaughterhouses were licensed during 1973 (one of which ceased business in August 1973) and the number of animals killed during the year at the two slaughterhouses is as follows:-

1 Cow, 306 Beasts, 3 Calves, 331 sheep and 2,435 pigs and 2 goats giving a total of 3,078.

In order to inspect these animals a total of 446 visits was required to the two slaughterhouses.

13 slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1973.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:-

21 pigs, and 2 sheep, which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 18 cwt 88 lbs.

There is also one Knacker's Yard in this area.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned  
from 1st January, 1973 to 31st December, 1973

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	306	1	3	331	2,435	-
Number Inspected	306	1	3	331	2,435	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2	21	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	2	-	22	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	1.3	100.0	66.6	0.60	1.8	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.12	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



## Food Hygiene

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:-

Green grocery	5
Grocery	23
Butchers	15
Fish shops	10
Bakehouses	3
Confectionery	13
Cafes and restaurants	7
Ice cream manufacturers	2
Chemists	4
Vegetable Processing Premises	4
	<hr/>
	86
	<hr/>

In addition, there are some 42 licensed premises including clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	37
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages	15
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips	10

- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:-

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 5.

- (4) any new educational activity and the progress of established educational activity:-

New posters are regularly exhibited relating to food hygiene and other matters.

- (5) the methods of disposal of condemned food:-

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc. the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by Contractors and processed.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity condemned:-

Page 7 shows the weight of meat condemned.

- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952:-

9 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. All 9 samples were classified Grade 1.

At the end of the year 37 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There are two manufacturers in the area.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1970:-

91 visits and re-visits were made to food premises during 1973 for compliance with the above Regulations. In addition 446 visits were paid to the local slaughterhouses.



### The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969

The above Regulations require meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. Notifications are received from Port Health Authorities of consignments of food to this area which are to be held in cold store pending disposal for sterilisation and in this respect 20 visits were paid to the Cold Store during 1973.

### The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The above Regulations which became operative on the 1st January, 1967 lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. In this respect regular visits are paid to the stalls on the market and mobile vans are inspected. Where contraventions on mobile vans are found the van owner is informed and also the Public Health Department in whose area the van is stationed and this system appears to work very well in practice.

Reorganisation takes place on 1st April, 1974 and March U.D.C. will become part of Fenland District Council. It is known that Annual Reports in their present form will be the last of their kind. They do provide evidence of the health and sanitary circumstances of an area and it would have been interesting to compare references in the Annual Report for 1930 to that of 1970. Unfortunately this Report has been requested by 31st March, 1974 and time does not permit such comparisons. Suffice it to say that changes have been made and progress accomplished.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity in this final Report of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation, and particularly Mr. Littler, the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable advice and assistance during the past twenty-four years in which we have worked together.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON

Public Health Inspector.

15th March, 1974



